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I hereby certify under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Guy Beardsley  
Printed name of person mailing correspondence

Guy Beardsley  
Signature of person mailing correspondence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Frederick M. Ausubel et al. Art Unit: 1645  
Serial No.: 09/975,719 Examiner: Albert Mark Navarro  
Filed: October 10, 2001 Customer No.: 21559  
Title: VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES AND USES  
THEREOF

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants, as a small entity, hereby petition that the period for replying to the Office action that was mailed in connection with the above-captioned application on December 12, 2003 be extended for one month, to and including April 12, 2004.

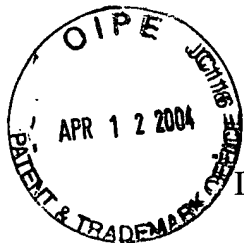
Applicants hereby assert that the present application is entitled to small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27(c)(1).

Enclosed is a check for \$55.00 for the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a).

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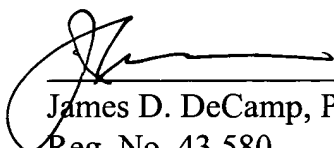


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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9 April 2004

  
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